

# INFORMATION SHEET ON WAIVER OF COURT FEES AND COSTS (California Rules of Court, Rule 985)

If you have been sued or if you wish to sue somebody, and if you cannot afford to pay court fees and costs, you may not have to pay if:

1. You are receiving **financial assistance** under one or more of the following programs:

- SSI and SSP (Supplemental Security Income and State Supplemental Payments Programs)
- AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program; now TANF, Temporary Aid to Needy Families)
- The Food Stamps Program
- County Relief, General Relief (G.R.) or General Assistance (G.A.)

If you are claiming eligibility for a waiver of court fees and costs based on your receiving financial assistance under one or more of these programs, and you did not provide your social security number, you must produce a letter confirming benefits from a public assistance agency or one of the following documents, except if you are a defendant in an unlawful detainer action:

PROGRAM	VERIFICATION
SSI/SSP	MediCal Card <i>or</i> Notice of Planned Action <i>or</i> SS Computer Generated Printout <i>or</i> Bank Statement Showing SSI Deposit <i>or</i> "Passport to Services"
AFDC (now TANF)	Medical Card <i>or</i> Notice of Action <i>or</i> Income and Eligibility Verification Form <i>or</i> Monthly Reporting Form <i>or</i> Electronic Benefit Transfer Card <i>or</i> "Passport to Services"
Food Stamp Program	Notice of Action <i>or</i> Food Stamp ID Card <i>or</i> "Passport to Services"
General Relief/General Assistance	Notice of Action <i>or</i> Copy of check stub <i>or</i> County voucher

— OR —

2. Your gross **monthly income** is less than the following amounts:

NUMBER IN FAMILY	FAMILY INCOME
1	\$ 806.25
2	1,079.16
3	1,352.09
4	1,625.00
5	1,897.91

NUMBER IN FAMILY	FAMILY INCOME
6	\$ 2,170.84
7	2,443.75
8	2,716.66
Each additional	272.91

— OR —

3. Your income is not enough to pay for the common **necessaries** of life for yourself and the people you support and also to pay court fees and costs.

**To apply, fill out the Application for Waiver of Court Fees and Costs available from the clerk's office. If you claim no income, you may be required to file a declaration under penalty of perjury. Prison and jail inmates may be required to pay up to the full amount of the filing fee.**

If you have any questions and cannot afford an attorney, you may wish to consult the legal aid office, legal services office, or lawyer referral service in your county (listed in the yellow pages under "Attorneys").

If you are asking for review of the decision of an administrative body under Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 (administrative mandate), you may ask for a transcript of the administrative proceedings at the expense of the administrative body.